

"Beyond the Horizon"



Lions Roar

The official newsletter of Lions of Virginia District 24-I

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*Connecting the clubs, communities & needs
for the Lions of Central and Southeastern Virginia. We Serve!*

Fall Conference a Great Success

On the first weekend of October we had our District Fall Conference. It was great success with many in attendance. We had anticipated a low turnout because of the COVID-19 pandemic and were completely surprised to find that over one hundred lions attended the conference and enjoyed themselves.

The barbecue dinner on Friday night was well attended and PDG Donnie Johnson the Chairman was a great host to get the event going and helping the Governor carry out the dinner and entertainment for the evening with "Frank sings Frank". The classes on Saturday were great with active participants working to do many new things or finding ways to solve problems. The District Governor and our International Director guest helped the other instructors in providing information to those in attendance.

The speakers for the lunch and dinner were excellent and provided valuable information to those in attendance. At the Lunch Mark Stevens of Stand Up for Kids offered us information on how we can help homeless teens around the district to get the help they need to become productive citizens and maybe future lion. International Director Robert Block and his wife Brenda shared the speaking chores for the Dinner and provided us with great insight on how to bring families into lions and how we can move forward in Lionism in our district. We are hoping to follow this conference up with more successes for lions and to provide a great Winter Conference in Farmville that is as wonderful and enjoyable as we had in this past conference.

Our Service Continues to be a challenge. IN this challenging times think of different ways that we can serve. Can we still organize food for the hungry projects? Yes we can if we think of using different techniques and designs. Perhaps we can have a location in a parking lot where people can drive up, open their trunk or rear hatch and we take the cases of food out. After we gather it, perhaps there is a large room such as a banquet hall or gymnasium or auditorium, where we can arrange tables so that one person can walk from table to table and fill the bags with food. Volunteers can set the cases of food near the end of the table and each person can walk by and load the bags, place the filled bags in the box. The when all the bags have been done take them to a food pantry or shelter to hand out the food (or to a school for those children who need the bags) and place them outside and allow the teachers to carry the filled bags in for distribution. While this seems like a difficult task if we work together and think the process through, I think we can still serve the community in this time of need and distribute food to those who need it in a way where Lions are not only noticed but thanked for their ability to adapt and serve.

Lion Mary Durbin
GST Chair

Membership

Membership will always be one of the things that challenge us most. It is hard to say what we need to do. One thing is certain. We must change the face of Lionism from the antiquated to the new. Many of the young people see the Lions as Good Ole Boys that are business men locked into their pattern of behavior and only associating with like people. We need to change this perception. How do we change it is the task at hand for Lions now and into the future.

We are considering specialty clubs as a way to gather new members. Do not try to build a large group. Start small. It is much easier to find five or six people and start a branch club and let that club build on its own. This will build and develop those specialty clubs and special groups we are looking for and towards. It also gives you a chance to mentor to them and help them grow as talented individuals rising above their current situation and becoming better and more capable members of our society. How we do this is different for each and every situation. One of the things we can do is to ask ourselves who we can talk to and what does our community need and who can help.

Sometimes a little cold prospecting can help. Cold prospecting is asking people you don't know and have not spoken to before and asking them to join. But in our case perhaps we should make a slight change in that formula. Let's go to groups we have a connection with. Nurses, Church classes, teachers, workout partners and others that you can think of by yourself. Then ask them what things they would like to do to help the community they live in. Most of them will not say they are too busy they will give you suggestions on how to help the community. This gives you the start of a conversation. Then you can discuss how you could bring that service to life. Yes, some will automatically say they are too busy, but others will offer suggestions and help. If you get two or three that have an idea and are interested in discussing the idea more. Agree to discuss the idea and see how it develops. They will begin to work on bringing it together. When you use a church group or school group the best place to hold the event is at the location they are already a part of.

I know this is not easy and many people will be fearful with the possibility of COVID, but the effort of trying will bring people together and we can then begin to show them the great resources and opportunities that Lions brings to the table to help achieve this goal and to allow them the chance to create something of their own. Then we just help them to move forward and allow them to become engaged and charged with their own future and the future of a project they have created.

This cold contact not only allows us to visit more people but it invites diversity and kindness to be extended in new and inspiring directions. While many of the younger generations are eager to volunteer and help with projects they lack the expertise and experience of getting the idea off the ground. We can offer them the chance to create a project of their own desire and build it to success. Then we can show them how as a Lion it can grow even bigger as they become Lions and make the connections around the world that can spark change.

Hopefully when you read this, it will spark other ideas in your mind and you can move forward with energy, passion and excitement that will not only reach other people in your community but others in your club as well to ignite a new process of growth in Lions.

Lion Scott Durbin
North American Membership Initiative
Champion District 24 I

Leadership Corner



As leaders we need to develop strategies in order to be successful in achieving our goals. There are four important themes to consider when developing strategies to achieve your goals as a Lion leader. These themes are designed to strengthen your club in growth, service and leadership as they fulfill the mission and vision of your club.

The first theme is to engage the membership. As leaders we need to inspire and challenge members to pursue excellence in service through projects that they are passionate about. We are able to achieve this when we fully understand what makes our members excited about being a Lion. Traditions run deep within Lions Clubs, but when we discount other ideas from newer members to follow traditions, we can miss out on opportunities to serve.

Secondly, we need to focus on retaining membership. Lions clubs are stronger when we are able to build stronger relationships. It's the bond we form with fellow Lions that allows us to grow stronger and withstand the storms we may face as a club. As leaders, we need to provide opportunities for social interactions to allow members to develop closer relationships with members that will build a stronger foundation. Setting aside meetings for club activities to promote relationship building is very beneficial. As an example, use a regular meeting time to allow club committees to meet to plan and coordinate committee activities.

Third, all members, regardless of how long they have been a Lion, need to have personal growth opportunities. Offer and encourage educational opportunities for members to gain knowledge about the club, district and international structures. Knowledge is power that will lead to skillful Lions willing to serve.

Finally, leaders need to recognize achievements. As Lions, we need to tell our story as often and through as many venues as possible. What we do is sometimes the best kept secret. When we increase the visibility of club activities, we generate interest from our community which will result in service growth. Does your community know you better for your fundraisers or your service projects? If the former, there is much work to do. After all, our motto is We Serve!

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District Governor

What is our future as Lions? It is bright and challenging. Right now what most of us see is the challenging part. Many questions are asked about how we can serve in this new environment that we are living in. The problem is not our new environment but how can we continue to do what we do. It is difficult but the biggest difficulty is breaking away from the old and creating new. Change is always the hardest part and for many it is the most difficult aspect of their lives.

For over twenty years, Lions have acted in a certain way with certain actions and certain expectations. Now none of that is possible or it is extremely difficult. But now we need to expand our horizons and expand them in new and different ways. I do not know what the future holds but I know Lions will rise to the challenge. We can all think of different things and we must not think that those thoughts are bad or not workable. That requires a lot of discussion and analysis. Why? Because although I may not see how the idea could possibly work, Lin Jean or Fred or Charles or others may see it differently and may be able to make it work.

Projects started as just an idea. Some were cast aside because they could not be done. But those ideas cast aside may still be feasible. We must pull them up and relook at them. And ask our youth if they think it can be done. Is it possible? They may have different ideas. Difficulties in bringing a project to life are not setbacks or obstacles, they are opportunities to grow, learn and create. We just have to find the solution.

I know a lot of great lions and they are talented, skilled and perceptive. But after awhile when no one else seems to see the things that they see or do not hear what they hear, their energy and excitement starts to fade and then their passion starts to fade and they are just there. We must reenergize all of our Lions. Those who have been Lions for years and those that are new to Lionism. We have done projects in the past that we have stopped. Perhaps it is time to consider resurrecting them. Recreating them with new and surprising aspects, altering their format or process. Who knows we may even create a project that when others hear of it, it begins to grow in their communities as well.

Each Lions Club has its own unique challenges. If you have an idea and are not sure what to do with it or are not sure how to bring it to your club – reach out Zone chairs, Region Chairs, GLT, GMT, GST Vice District Governor and the Governor will all be happy to talk to you about your idea and discuss how to present it to your club or zone or region. Sometimes the ideas we have are too big for our clubs, but not for our zones or regions or districts. Now is the time for new ideas and thoughts and possibly resurrecting old ideas that failed and give them life.

Lions let us leap into the future in a way that our communities find surprising and inspiring. Let's lead the way in Diversity, Kindness and Unity. Respect, Dignity, Integrity are powerful words for Lions. Lions let's show the world and SERVE them.

Lion Scott Durbin
District Governor 24 I

Welcome to our New Lions!

Brandermill-Midlothian (Woodlake)

Phillip Ray Guin
Sponsor: Lion James Stewart

Chesapeake Southside

Michelle Gambani
Sponsor: Lion Nina Ambrose

Mark K. Gorman
Sponsor: Lion Nina Ambrose

Middlesex County

Linda K. Burrell
Sponsor: Lion Michael Pierce

Powhatan

Ray t. Avery IV
Sponsor: Lion E. F. Yates

South Boston

Steven Oulette
Sponsor; Lion Winston Harrell

Southeastern Virginia Filipino American

Rogelio B. Afable
Sponsor: Lion Vincent Medina

Juanito A. Jacinto
Sponsor: Lion Vincent Medina

Denia N. Jove
Sponsor: Lion Vincent Medina

Teodulo D. Jove Jr
Sponsor: Vincent Medina

In Memory

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers these Lions, their families, friends, and Clubs.

Appomattox

Lion Paul D. Harvey

Brookville Timberlake

Lion Margaret Hantley

Buckingham County

Lion Earl Dotson, PID

Farmville

Lion Thomas E. McBride

Newport News Warwick

Lion Kenneth L. Helm

Virginia Beach Kempsville

Lion Harod L. Smith

Virginia Beach Princess Anne

Lion James Oglesby

(New Members Continued)

Lolita M. Peterson
Sponsor: Lion Flo Villania

Renato A. Reniva
Sponsor: Vincent Medina

Justine Reyes-Ford
Sponsor : Lion Guia Caliwagan

Virginia Beach Town Center-Blind

Mary Fountain

Paul A. Usewicz

Williamsburg Host

Joan N. Moore
Sponsor: Lion Judy McDede

Leadership Development Opportunities

New Leadership Page on District Web Site:

If you missed Fall Conference or Club Officer training don't worry; it's not too late to hear the presentations. Our fabulous webmaster, Lion Christian Lancto, has created a leadership page on our district website where you can find the PowerPoint presentations and audio recordings of the officer trainings. Supplemental resource materials, including officer E-books, are also available for download. Be sure to download all the materials for New Member Orientation. The LCI orientation video is great and I highly recommend it. Other classes will be posted soon so check back often at: <http://lionsdistrict24i.org/leadership/officer-training.html>

Leadership Fridays:

Back by popular demand, our online Leadership Fridays series will continue. Our upcoming classes include:
Peace Poster - presenter Lion Joy Richardson 10/9/2020
Mentoring the Next Generation of Lions - presenters Lions Mack Stevens, Ruth and Ethan Perez 11/13/2020
Specialty Clubs - presenter Lion Homer Cook 12/11/2020
Club Succession Planning - presenter 1st VDG Greg Cole 1/8/2021
Class time is 7 – 8 PM. A Constant Contact will be emailed out the Monday proceeding the event with the Zoom link.

Regional Lions Leadership Institute:

The Virginia Regional Lions Leadership Institute (RLLI) is a three-day course scheduled for March 5 – 7, 2021 in Roanoke, VA. RLLI helps Lions in Virginia achieve leadership excellence in their volunteer and personal lives. This is a dynamic educational opportunity for club officers to gain critical leadership skills. Lions from around Virginia gather to improve their public speaking skills, learn how to motivate club members, hear advice on time management, and tips for conflict resolution. Competent Club Presidents know the value of courses in setting and achieving goals, team work and the fundamentals of Lionism. The Leadership Institute utilizes the talents of skilled, experienced individuals to present information on topics that will be of tremendous benefit to you in both your future service in Lions, as well as your career and personal interactions. The District Governor can endorse ten candidates from District 24-I. Lodging and meals are provided for the three-day event. Attendees are responsible for travel expenses and a \$150 participant fee. Applications are due to GLT Beth Stevens by December 31, 2020.

Thank You:

Finally, I'd like to thank all the Fall Conference training facilitators. It takes several hours of planning, preparing and practicing to provide quality educational opportunities for all of you. I'd like to thank Lion Nina Ambrose, ID Robert Block, Lion Don Butts, Lion Homer Cook, Lion Mary Durbin, DG Scott Durbin, Lion Heather Jones-Lancto, Lion Helen Person, PDG Ann Ragland, PDG Beth Stevens, Lion Mack Stevens, and PDG Donna Weiler. We trained 130 Lions on Saturday, October 2, 2020 bringing our year-to-date total to 387 members trained. Together in Service,

PDG Beth Stevens